

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 24-26, 29-32, 37, 39, 40, 49, 73-75, 78, 82, 142, and 143 are currently pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 24-26, 29-31, 37, 39-40, 49, 73-75, 78, 82, 142-143 are cancelled by this subject amendment leaving remaining claims 2-6, 8-13 and 32.

Claims Objected To Which Would Be Allowable If Rewritten

The Examiner states that claims 2, 3, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended dependent claim 2 to include the limitations of independent claim 1, and has amended dependent claim 13 to include the limitations of independent claim 1, and has amended dependent claim 32 to include the limitations of independent claim 24 and intervening claims 29 and 30. The dependency of the applicable dependent claims have been renumbered to correspond to the claims now allowable.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit

Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By



Eric D. Cohen

Registration No. 38,110

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 655-1500

March 27, 2006